

is why we have joined Algeria, Benin, and Tanzania in cosponsoring today's second important resolution. We support the need to improve the ability of the African Union and subregional organizations to deploy both civilian and military assets to prevent such conflicts. Over the next 5 years, the United States will provide training for more than 40,000 African peacekeepers as part of a broader initiative by the G-8 countries. We will help train African forces to preserve justice and order in Africa.

Terrorism and armed conflict are not only threats to our security; they're the enemies of development and freedom for millions. To help ensure the 21st century is one of freedom, security, and prosperity—I want to thank the members of the Security Council for supporting today's resolutions.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. in the Security Council Chamber at the United Nations Headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines, in her capacity as President to the U.N. Security Council; and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

Remarks at a Luncheon Hosted by Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations in New York City

September 14, 2005

Mr. Secretary-General, distinguished members of the United Nations community, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, our country is honored to welcome you to New York. I'm pleased to be with you at the 60th session of the United Nations General Assembly, this year under the leadership of President Eliasson of Sweden.

We meet at a time of tragedy for this country, when citizens along our gulf coast are recovering from Hurricane Katrina. I just want you to know that Americans take comfort in knowing that we're not alone. I can't thank you enough for the outpouring of international support for our brothers and sisters who hurt. This international good will and outpouring of support reminds us there is no challenge we cannot overcome when the nations of the world unite in common.

That was the vision of the founders of the United Nations six decades ago. Our challenge is to extend this vision into the 21st century, and we need a strong United Nations to do so. The United States appreciates the commitment of Secretary-General Annan and the General Assembly and members of member states to reform the U.N. We have made a solid start. More work remains.

Our ongoing efforts together will be crucial to enable the United Nations to fulfill the promises made 60 years ago.

Mr. Secretary-General, on this important anniversary I offer a toast to you and to the United Nations: May the U.N. embody the high ideals of its founding in the years to come.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:39 p.m. in the North Delegates Lounge at the United Nations Headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to Jan Eliasson, President of the 60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Remarks at the National Dinner Celebrating 350 Years of Jewish Life in America

September 14, 2005

Thank you all very much. Thanks for the warm welcome. Thanks for the invitation to be here. My only regret is Laura is not with me. I left her behind to do some diplomacy in New York City. *[Laughter]*

Bob, I want to thank you for your kind introduction. I'm honored to accept this medal commemorating three-and-a-half centuries of Jewish life in America. I consider it a high honor to have been invited to celebrate with you.

Back in 1790, the Jewish congregation of Newport, Rhode Island, wrote to congratulate George Washington on his election as the country's first President. Some say he was the first George W. *[Laughter]* In his reply, President Washington thanked the congregation and pledged to defend vigorously the principle of religious liberty for all. He declared—here's what he said. He said, the United States “gives bigotry no sanction; to persecution, no assistance.” And he expressed his hope that the “stock of Abraham” would thrive in America.